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AUSTEN  WALKER  COLEBY #5

THE ETERNAL™

PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT
CONTENT

HGWells

THE ETERNAL







IKAEDEN



KURASSUS



JESKA

PREVIOUSLY...

Two races of immortal beings, the Eternals and the Celestials, have dominion over all life in the galaxy. For the last thousand years, the Celestials have enslaved the Eternals and sent them from world to world to mine each planet of its resources.

The Eternals come to Earth shortly before the dawn of man and transform some of the local pre-human hominids into artificial Eternals, or "deviants," for use as slave labor. A device called the Apple is used to teach the deviant slaves to understand commands. Because the Celestials destroyed all female Eternals, the Eternals on Earth begin using female deviants to satisfy their sexual appetites. However, the Celestials have forbidden on pain of death the procreation of an Eternal and a deviant – and they have also forbidden that a deviant be taught to speak.

Trouble begins when the leader of the Eternals, Ikaeden, falls in love with his deviant servant, Jeska. When she uses the Apple to gain intelligence and speech, he refuses to destroy her as he should. What's more, she becomes pregnant, an offense that could mean death for all. Kurassus, Ikaeden's sadistic second-in-command, is convinced the Eternal leader is signing their death warrants, but knows he is no physical match for Ikaeden, so he devises a two-pronged attack. First, he uses the Apple to give intelligence to a horde of monstrous deviants from other worlds, then sets those deviants on all Eternals loyal to Ikaeden. Second, Kurassus strikes Ikaeden in his most vulnerable spot: his love, Jeska.

Ikaeden and his loyal man, Agrimet, are attacked by the deviants, led by a humanoid named Kro. Despite a bloody battle between Eternals and deviants, Ikaeden convinces Kro to join him in rebellion against the Celestials. Meanwhile, Kurassus finds Jeska alone, but instead of killing her, he tricks her into using the Apple, telling her she will gain the knowledge of the gods. Instead of making her more intelligent, however, the Apple devolves her frontal lobe, making her irrational and superstitious – destroying her mind. When Ikaeden discovers what his second-in-command has done, he goes to kill Kurassus – only to learn that the Celestials have arrived on Earth, to punish deviant and Eternal alike...

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Ikaeden told us to be patient.
He also said to leave him and run if he did not return quickly.
But now it's too late for that.

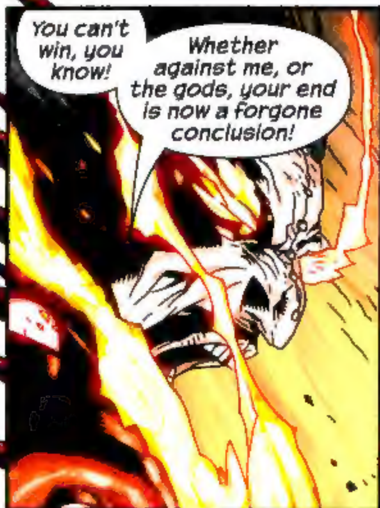









DIIIIIE KURASSUS!





HAAA!

FZZZAAAASH






AAAHH!!
SHLUCK


You've never--
--been able--
--to beat me--


SKUNCH


--even when I was LESS motivated--

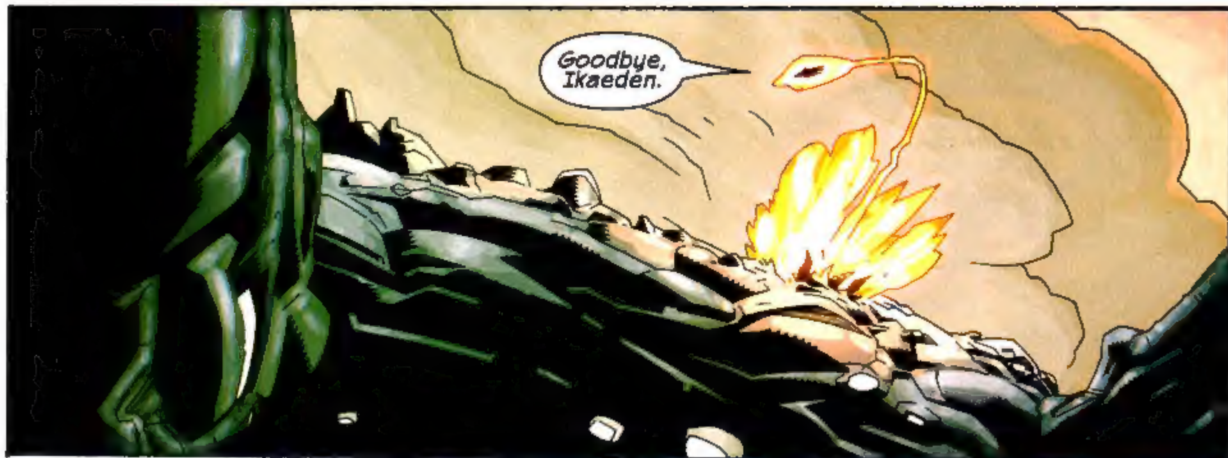

--THAN I AM NOW!

AAAAHH!!!
SZZZ-CHUNK

SPSSSSSSS

I never--
--I never expected to--
--to beat you--
--only--

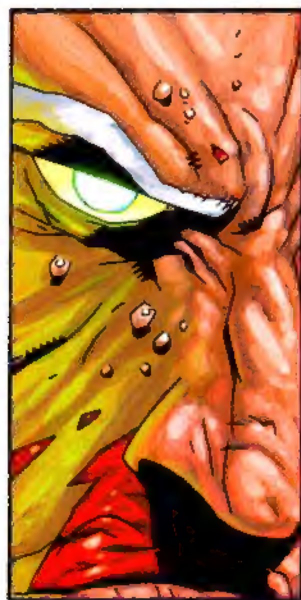
SHBAM
--delay you.



Nnnggh-dammit.








YOU CHOSE A DEVIANT OVER AN ETERNAL!




You chose a deviant over your *brothers*.


THOO


SPAT






Personally--
--I think I chose wisely.

You'd better destroy his brain, Ikaeden.
You know he'll eventually recover--

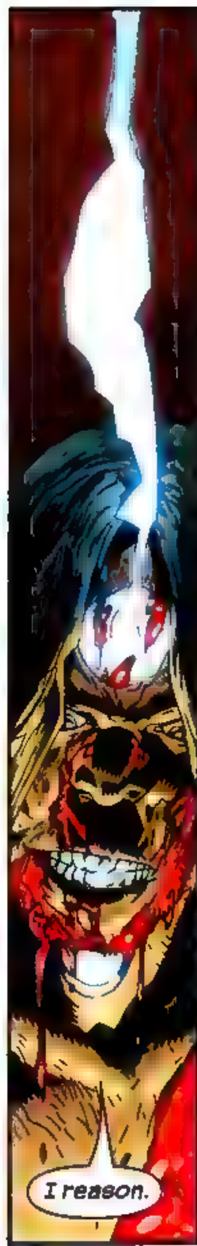
--and one day, we will all gather and find a way to punish you.

HYEEAAA!






SHHPSSHHH

I know what you're thinking, slaver. As long as the brain lives, so does the Eternal.
"If I lie still, the 'DEVIANT' will assume I'm dead and leave me to my slow recovery."
But elevated intelligence means I do not ASSUME, Eternal.

THUNK
CHUNK
THUNK
WHUNK
I reason.

I know, and I understand.

WILL YOU SIDE WITH IKAEDEN!?
NOT NOW--


--NOT EVER!


CHUNK


WILL YOU SIDE WITH IKAEDEN!?


I WOULD SOONER DIE, DEVIANT!

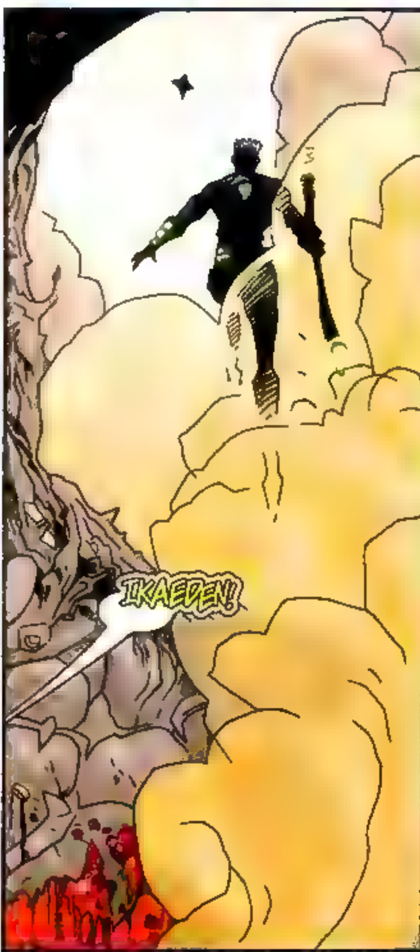

IS NOW SOON ENOUGH?!


Ik--
--Ikaeden?
Kill me, please? Destroy my brain.
I do not--


I do not wish to live the way--
--the way you have chosen, and I no longer--
--I no longer wish to serve the gods.
Just--
--just let me die. Please?




Ikaeden, please, I--
Please don't--


IKAEDEN!

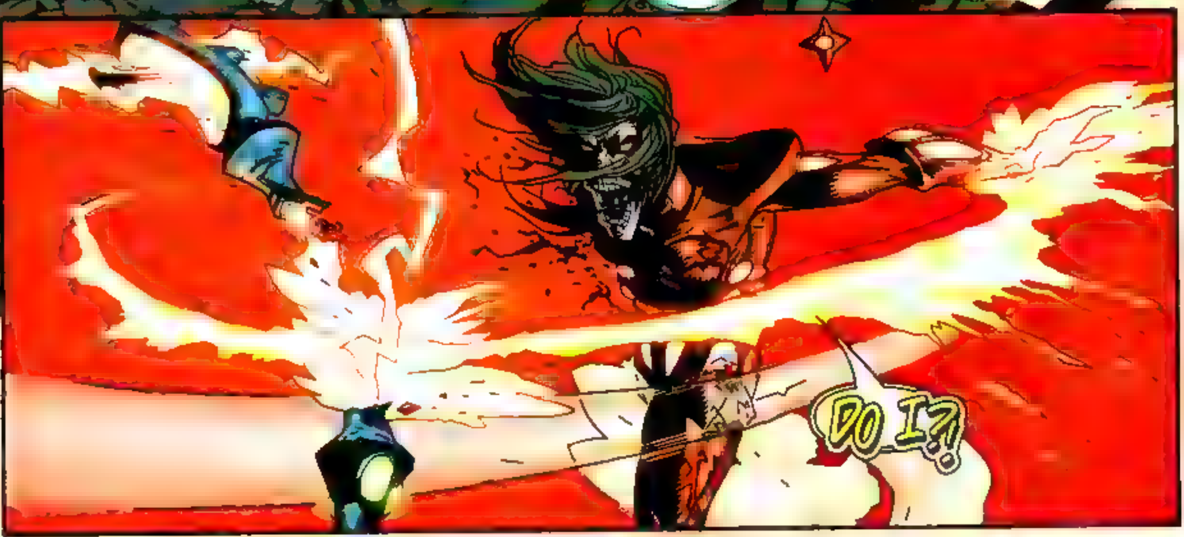

IKAEDEN!

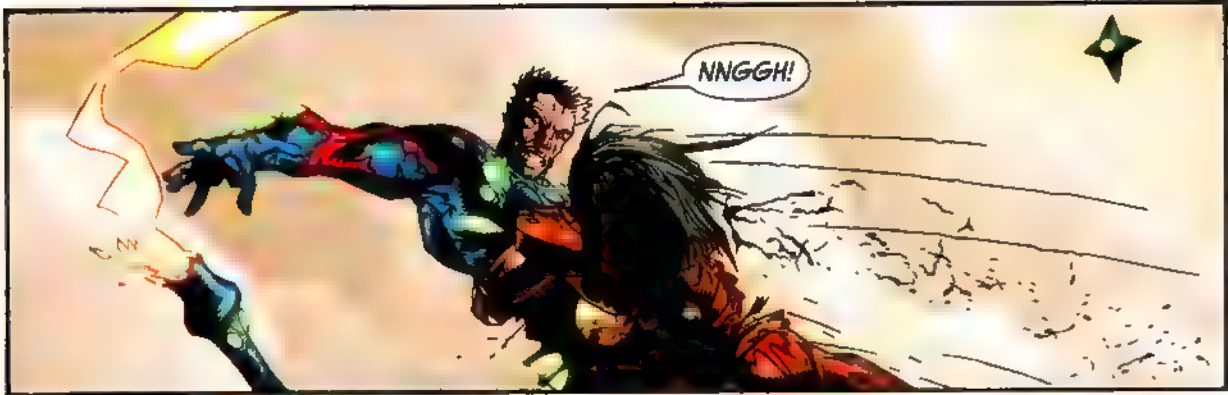
Flight center--
--flight center gone, and I'm losing--
--losing power, I--










NNGGH!




AAAAAH!!


SHBOOM


SSSSSS




I hate you.


Really?
I never would have guessed.


Do you remember--
--Ikaeden?
When the-- when the gods came?
We worshipped them and--
--and we helped them gather our women--


Because they promised us the heavens.
The stars.


We were idiots.

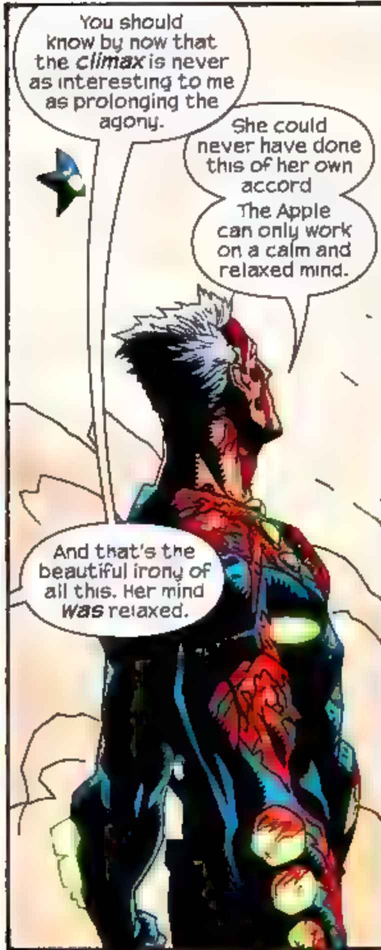

We believed in eternal damnation for--
--for challenging the gods' will.
And our gods gave it to us, didn't they?

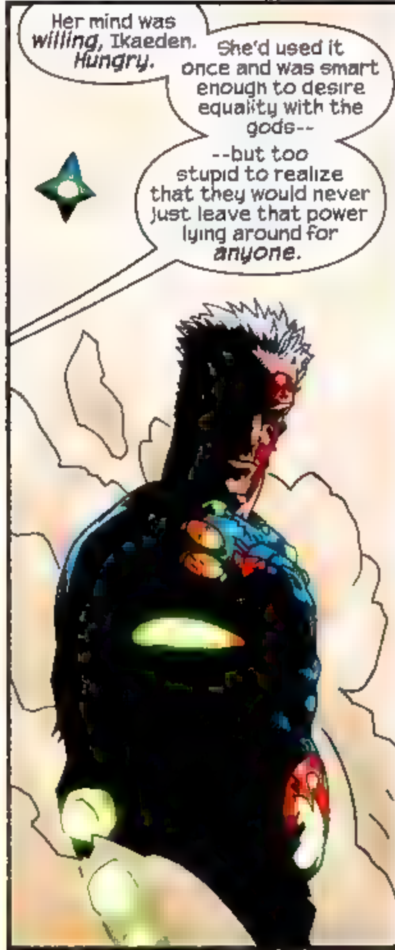

For following false gods.
For following the Celestials.
Yes.

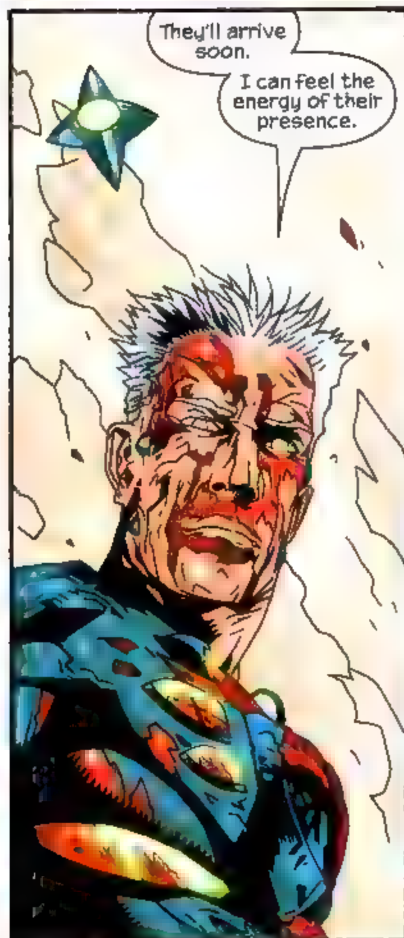

I've been preparing for real damnation, Ikaeden.
I have no fear of a hell now. I will own any hell you send me to.


Why did you take her mind, Kurassus?
Why not just kill her?

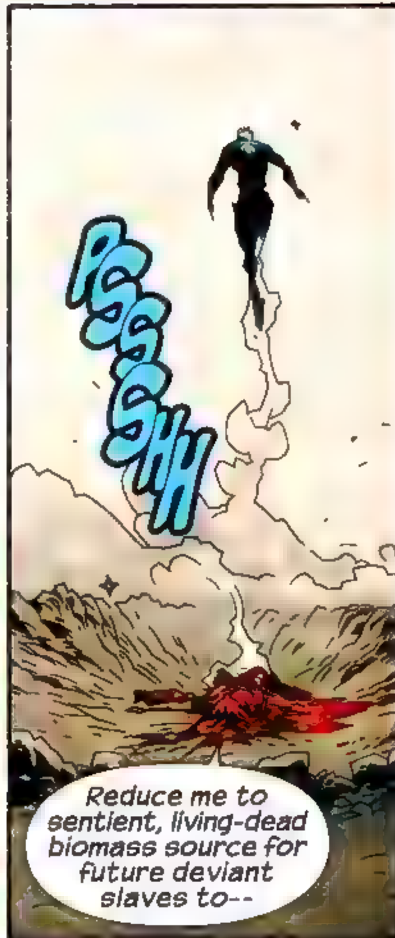

Because it was her *mind* which mattered *most* to you, wasn't it?
A mind which is now--forever--tantalizingly beyond your reach--
--and yet *someday*--might be--
--*might* be retrieved.

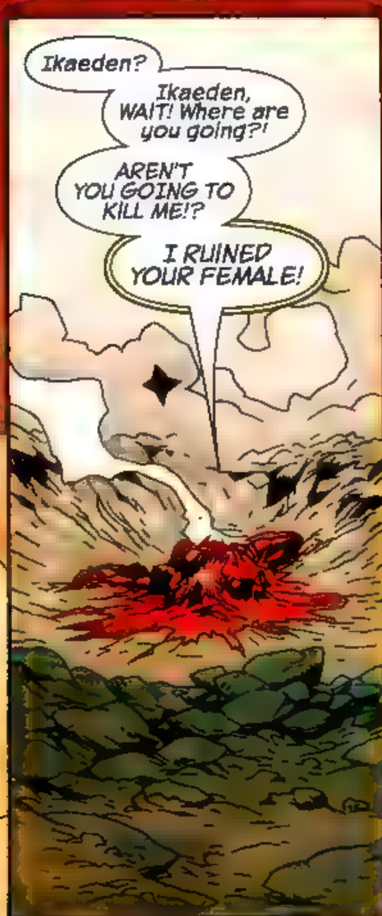

You should know by now that the *climax* is never as interesting to me as prolonging the agony.
She could never have done this of her own accord.
The Apple can only work on a calm and relaxed mind.
And that's the beautiful irony of all this. Her mind *was* relaxed.

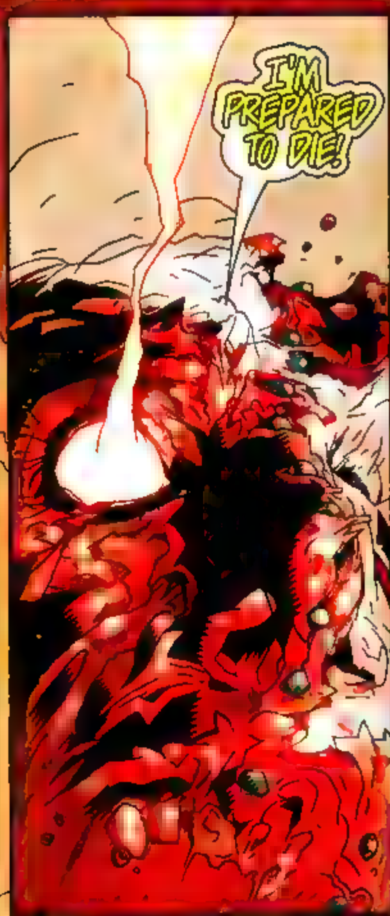

Her mind was *willing*, Ikaeden. *Hungry.*
She'd used it once and was smart enough to desire equality with the gods--
--but too stupid to realize that they would never just leave that power lying around for *anyone*.


They'll arrive soon.
I can feel the energy of their presence.


And they'll probably forgive you!
You were always better than the rest of us. Always the gods' FAVORITE. It's why they made you leader.
Even if by some miracle I had managed to defeat you, they would probably STILL punish ME.


PSSSHH
Reduce me to sentient, living-dead biomass source for future deviant slaves to--


Ikaeden?
Ikaeden, WAIT! Where are you going?!
AREN'T YOU GOING TO KILL ME!?
I RUINED YOUR FEMALE!


I'M PREPARED TO DIE!


DON'T LEAVE ME TO THE MERCY OF THE GODDDDS!


ARE YOU--
--ARE YOU WITH IKAEDEN!?


WITH HIM, DEVIANT.
BUT NOT WITH YOU!
I HAVE A NAME, ETERNAL--



This is pointless!
There is nothing left to fight for, and yet you all continue on, BLINDLY!
You deviants have your intelligence, and your freedom.
There is no point in staying.







Go now. Hide yourselves.
Pray that somewhere there is a place where the all-seeing eyes of the gods cannot find you.
And you, Ikaeden?


What will *you* do?

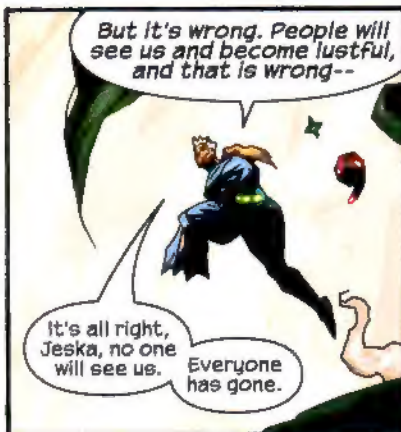

I will remain behind--try to appease them--
--hopefully divert their wrath.




I wish you luck, my friend.
If you survive, you will always have a home with me and mine.




I am naked. I cannot be naked. It is wrong. It is a sin.
Jeska, ssshhh.
We have to leave everything behind--even clothing.


But it's wrong. People will see us and become lustful, and that is wrong--
It's all right, Jeska, no one will see us.
Everyone has gone.


Well, I won't have sex with you outside anymore, if that's what you're thinking--
Jeska.
Please, just calm down.

KWHOOOM



The gods have arrived--

TO BE CONCLUDED...


another scan from England's own
HG Wells